

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SCS-03 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01

EB-07 IO-10 NEAE-00 /069 W

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O 221435Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6453

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1040

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIBHITVD

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE: RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: NEW DELHI 0980

1. FROM ALL AVAILABLE ACCOUNTS, THE DEATH TOLL FROM SUNDAY'S EARTHQUAKE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH HAS NOW RISEN TO 51. ADDITIONAL BODIES ARE YET BE RECOVERED IN THE 150 SQUARE KM. QUAKE-HIT AREA. FRESH TREMORS CONTINUE TO BE FELT AND BOULDERS CONTINUE TO FALL FROM MOUNTAIN SIDES. FOUR VILLAGES ARE SAID TO BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED (ALL BUILDINGS RAZED) AND OTHERS PARTIALLY DESTROYED. ALL ROADS INTO THE AREA ARE BLOCKED AND ACCESS IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY HELICOPTER.

2. RESCUE OPERATIONS CONTINUE UNDER THE COMBINED AEGIS OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (THE COORDINATOR FOR EVENTS OF NATIONAL CALAMITY) AND THE MILITARY. AIRDROPS OF BLANKETS AND FOOD CONTINUE TO BE MADE. ARMY MEDICAL TEAMS HAVE VISITED THE AREA. RELIEF AND EVACUATION EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING HINDERED BY SNOW STORMS, WHICH ARE ALSO PREVENTING AN ACCURATE ASSESS-

MENT OF CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE.

THE INDIAN MILITARY, WHICH IS OUR BEST SOURCE ON THIS SITU-

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ATION, SAYS IT WILL TAKE A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO RESTORE NORMAL

COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AREA.

3. I BELIEVE A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. ALTHOUGH SUCH A MESSAGE MIGHT INCLUDE A GENERAL OFFER TO HELP IF DESIRED, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE YET AWARE OF A DISASTER OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE TO JUSTIFY A MORE SPECIFIC OFFER.

SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL DISASTERS, EARTHQUAKES, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE01040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750024-0143
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750130/aaaabajw.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 0980
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARTHQUAKE: RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, US, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006